

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 101135Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 967

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: CHINESE VIEW OF SUBCONTINENT

1. I RAN INTO PRC CHARGE CHU YEN AT BULGARIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION HERE SEPT 10 AND ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUBCONTINENT. HE SAID HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MADE STATEMENT WELCOMING RECENT DELHI AGREEMENT FOLLOWING INDO-PAK TALKS. PRC WOULD LIKE INDIA, BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. IT HOPES EXCHANGES OF PERSONS AGREED ON AT DELHI CAN BEGIN SHORTLY AND TAKE PLACE FAIRLY RAPIDLY. AS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, PRC WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE BOTH COUNTRIES MOVE ALONG TOWARD OTHER
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STEPS SUCH AS FORESEEN AT SIMLA. AND IT WOULD LIKE TO

SEE PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH ALSO MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZING POINTS. CHU COMMENTED THAT INDEED PRC AND USG SEEMED TO HAVE PARALLEL VIEW ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS IN THIS REGION.

2. NOTING THAT PRC WAS NOT REPRESENTED IN DACCA AND HAD POOR RELATIONS IN DELHI, CHU EXPRESSED HOPE USG WOULD BE DOING WHAT IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE BANGLADESH AND INDIA TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZING SITUATION IN SUBCONTINENT. I SAID OUR HOPES THAT TENSIONS WOULD BE EASED IN REGION WERE WELL KNOWN AND INDEED WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, AND PAKISTAN AS WELL, TO FIND WAYS TO RESOLVE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM. ACTUALLY, OUR INFLUENCE WAS LIMITED AND, IN ANY EVENT, WE THOUGHT REMOVAL OF TENSIONS HAD FUNDAMENTALLY TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE REGIONAL GOVTS THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BY OUTSIDERS. CHU AGREED WITH ME THAT THE THREE REGIONAL GOVTS HAD THE MAIN BURDEN BUT REFERRED TO FACT THAT BANGLADESH (AND HE THOUGHT ALSO INDIA) RELIED HEAVILY ON US FOR FOOD SUPPLIES AND THUS WOULD BE OPEN TO SUGGESTION BY US. I SAID WE REALLY BELIEVED THE THREE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES HAD TO FIND THE KEY AND WE HOPED THEY WOULD INDEED DO SO.

3. IN RESPONSE MY QUERY AS TO HOW PRC VIEWED ITS FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH BANGLADESH, CHU SAID CHINA HAS FRIENDLY FEELINGS FOR BOTH BANGLADESH PEOPLE AND BANGLADESH LEADERSHIP. HE FORESAW ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS QTE WHEN ALL PAKISTAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING THE 195, ARE RETURNED UNQTE. I ASKED IF THIS MEANT THAT CHINA WOULD CONTINUE ITS OPPOSITION TO BANGLADESH ENTRY IN UN PENDING RETURN OF THE 195 (I.E., THOSE TO BE HELD IN INDIA FOR POSSIBLY TRIAL BY BDG). CHU WAS EQUIVOCAL ON THIS POINT. HE NOTED UNGA WOULD BE IN SESSION SEVERAL MONTHS AND EXPRESSED HOPE (BUT WITHOUT MUCH APPARENT CONVICTION) THAT EVENTS WOULD DEVELOP SO AS TO PERMIT BANGLADESH ENTRY AT THIS SESSION. (COMMENT: CHU WAS OBVIOUSLY STRADDLING ON THIS POINT, POSSIBLY BECAUSE PRC POSITION IS NOT ENTIRELY FIRM OR POSSIBLY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT PEKING'S POSITION IS.)

4. I ASKED HOW RECENT DELHI AGREEMENT AND PROSPECTIVE
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EASING OF TENSIONS IN SUBCONTINENT MIGHT AFFECT SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. CHU SAID THEY ARE NEIGHBORS AND CHINA WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA. IT HOPES DEVELOPMENTS CAN MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. ON OTHER HAND, CHINA WAS AWARE OF INDIA'S QTE EXPANSIONISM SUPPORTED BY SOVIET UNION. UNQTE CHU DID NOT PREDICT ANY EARLY CHANGE IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS.

5. CHU INDICATED THAT PRC HAD SOME UNCERTAINTIES AND

APPARENT RESERVATIONS REGARDING DAUD GOVT IN AFGHANISTAN.
THIS INCLUDED SOME UNCERTAINTY AS TO DEGREE OF POSSIBLE
SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND INFLUENCT IN KABUL.

6. ON PAKISTAN ITSELF, CHU SUGGESTED THAT BOTH US AND
CHINA HOPED INTERNAL SITUATION WOULD QUIET DOWN. I SAID
THAT WAS RIGHT SO FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED. HI REMARKED
THAT I HAD HEARD DEEP APPRECIATION VOICED BY PAKISTANIS
REGARDING SUPPORT GIVEN TO PAKISTAN BY CHINA. CHU RE-
JOINED THAT PAKISTAN WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SUCCESSFUL
VISIT BY BHUTTO TO US NEXT WEEK.
SOBER

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